

REMARKS:

The Office Action dated January 7, 2009 has been received and carefully reviewed. The preceding amendments and the following remarks form a full and complete response thereto. Claims 1 and 4 have been amended and claims 5-11 have been added. No new matter is added. Accordingly, claims 1-11, are pending in the application and submitted for reconsideration.

Interview Summary

Applicant's representative would like to thank Examiner Wilson for the personal interview held on April 23, 2009. During the interview, Applicant's representative explained the differences between the claimed invention and the teaches of the cited art. Examiner Wilson acknowledged that claim 4 is distinguishable over the cited art and indicated that claim 1 is primarily functional and requires additional structural recitation.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Arikita (U.S. Patent No. 5,358,226). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and submits that claims 1-4 recite subject matter that is not disclosed by Arikita. Claim 1, as amended, recites:

wherein the projections include an engaging projection having an engaging surface formed in a front row of projections of the brush which is configured differently than an engaging surface of a back row of projections and which is adapted to be hooked more firmly than the engaging surface of the back-row projection and which serves as a holding surface to prevent undesired release of the engagement between the brush and the brush mount against a load applied from a direction normal to the cut support surface, and

wherein the mount includes an engaging rib having an engaging surface confronting the engaging surface of the back row

of projection of the brush, and a holding rib having a holding surface which confronts the engaging surface of the front row of engaging projection of the brush and wherein the holding rib is configured differently than the engaging rib and is adapted to be hooked more firmly than the engaging surface of the engaging rib;

(emphasis added)

Thus, independent claim 1 defines a brush mounting structure in which the mounting arrangements of the front and rear portions of the brush differ such that the front of the brush is more firmly engaged with the brush mount than the rear of the brush. Specifically, the engaging projections of the front row of the brush are configured differently than the engaging projections of the back row of the brush, and the holding rib of the brush mount is configured differently than the engaging rib of the brush mount. Arikita does not disclose this feature. Instead, as can be seen in Figure 2 of Arikita, the brush projections 18 and the brush mount projections 13 with which the brush projections are engaged are identical at the front and back of the brush. Thus, Arikita does not disclose a mounting structure in which the mounting arrangements of the front and rear portions of the brush differ.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

As indicated above, claim 4 was indicated to be allowable over Arikita during the interview.

New dependent claims 5-11 recite additional features of the brush mounting structure and are allowable as depending from allowable base claims.

Furthermore, claims 5-11 recite structures that are not disclosed in Arikita.

Claims 5 and 6 recite that the front row of projections and the holding rib have cooperating L-shapes and the back row of projections and the engaging ribs have cooperating oblique shapes. Claims 7 and 8 recite intermediate rows of projections that are configured

differently from the front row of projections. Claim 9 recites that the holding rib has a holding surface that is parallel to the direction of travel and the engaging rib includes a smooth, oblique engaging surface. Claims 10 and 11 recite that the back row of projections and the engaging rib are more resilient than the front row of projections and the holding rib.

None of these features is disclosed in Arikita, and therefore claims 5-11 are allowable for these additional and independent reasons.

In view of the above, all objections and rejections have been sufficiently addressed. The Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and requests that this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the Applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

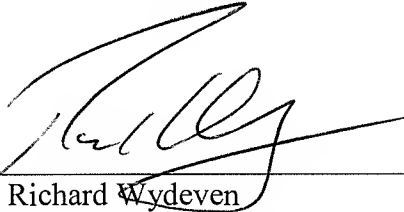
In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

5/7/09

By _____



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